

IPV Screening Tools

HITS

Hurt, Insult, Threaten, and Scream

How often does your partner physically **Hurt** you?
How often does your partner **Insult** or talk down to you?
How often does your partner **Threaten** you with physical harm?
How often does you partner **Scream** or curse at you?

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Developer: Kevin Sherin, James Sinacore, Xiao-Qiang Li, Robert Zitter, and Amer Shakil

Publication year: 1998

Administration method: Self report or clinician administered.

Scoring procedures: Each question is answered on a 5-point scale:

1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = fairly often, 5 = frequently

The scores range from 4 to a maximum of 20. For female patients, A HITS cut off score 10 or greater was used to classify participants as victimized; for male patients, A HITS cut off score of 11 or greater was used to classify participants as victimized (Sherin et al 1998; Shakil et al. 2005).

Follow-up procedures: This information is not available.

Index Reference:

Sherin KM, Sinacore JM, Li XQ, Zitter RE, Shakil A. (1998). HITS: A short domestic violence screening tool for use in a family practice setting. *Family Medicine*, 30, 508-12.

Additional References:

Punukollu M (2003). Domestic violence: Screening made practical. *The Journal of Family Practice*, 52, 537-43.

Partner Violence Screen (PVS)

1. Have you been hit, kicked, punched, or otherwise hurt by someone within the past year? If so, by whom?
2. Do you feel safe in your current relationship?
3. Is there a partner from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe now?

Reprinted with permission from Davis JW, Parks SN, Kaups KL, Bennink LD, Bilello JF. (2003). Victims of domestic violence on the trauma service: Unrecognized and underreported. *Journal of Trauma*, 54, 352-55.

Developer: Kim Feldhaus, Jane Koziol-McLain, Holly Amsbury, Ilena Norton, Steven Lowenstein, and Jean Abbott

Publication year: 1997

Administration method: Clinician administered.

Scoring procedures: Feldhaus et al. (1997) report the following:

A "yes" response to the physical violence question was considered positive for partner violence if the perpetrator was a current or former spouse or other intimate partner. For the safety questions, women who reported feeling unsafe because of a current or past partner and those who were unsure about their safety were considered positive for partner violence...A positive response to any 1 of the 3 questions constitutes a positive screen for partner violence.

Follow-up procedures: All positive screens should be documented in the medical record, and the patient should be offered support, counseling, and referrals to safe shelters. A plan to ensure their future safety should be created (Feldhaus et al. 1997).

Index Reference:

Feldhaus KM, Koziol-McLain J, Amsbury HL, Norton IM, Lowenstein SR., Abbot JT. (1997). Accuracy of 3 brief screening questions for detecting partner violence in the emergency department. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 277, 1357-61.

Additional References:

Davis JW, Parks SN, Kaups KL, Bennink LD, Bilello JF. (2003). Victims of domestic violence on the trauma service: Unrecognized and underreported. *Journal of Trauma*, 54, 352-55.

Woman Abuse Screening Tool (WAST)

1. In general, how would you describe your relationship?
 - A lot of tension
 - Some tension
 - No tension
2. Do you and your partner work out arguments with:
 - Great difficulty?
 - Some difficulty?
 - No difficulty?
3. Do arguments ever result in you feeling down or bad about yourself?
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never
4. Do arguments ever result in hitting, kicking or pushing?
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never
5. Do you ever feel frightened by what your partner says or does?
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never
6. Has your partner ever abused you physically?
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never
7. Has your partner ever abused you emotionally?
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never
8. Has your partner ever abused you sexually?
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

3b. HARK questions*

H HUMILIATION

Within the last year, have you been humiliated or emotionally abused in other ways by your partner or your ex-partner?

A AFRAID

Within the last year, have you been afraid of your partner or ex-partner?

R RAPE

Within the last year have you been raped or forced to have any kind of sexual activity by your partner or ex-partner?

K KICK

Within the last year, have you been kicked, hit, slapped or otherwise physically hurt by your partner or ex-partner?

**screening questions developed in general practice Hardip Sohal (2011).*